TRAVANCORE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Thursday, the 12th April 1923.

(OFFICIAL REPORT).

The Council met in the Victoria Jubilee Town Hall at Eleven Thirty-one of the Clock. The Deputy President was in the chair.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[*Order made by the President under Standing Order No. 12* :—

(1) Printed copies of the questions and answers to be put and given at a meeting the Council shall be placed on the Council table 15 minutes before the President takes a seat.

(2) The questions shall be put and answered in the following manner:—

The Secretary shall call the name of each interpellator in serial order, specify the serial number of his questions and make a sufficient pause to allow him a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place, if he is desirous of asking a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.]

Preliminary working Plans.

178. MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI: With reference to the answer furnished by the Government to Q. 10 and the supplementary questions thereto, at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 25th July 1922, will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they are yet in possession of the simple or preliminary working schemes or plans, and, if so, to place them on the table; and

(*b*) whether they have heard from the Conservator of Forests as to why the above plans were not submitted during the past five years?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: (*a*) The member's attention is invited to paragraph 5 of the Government Review of the Administration Report of the Forest Department for 1097.

(*b*) The Conservator explains the delay as being due to the fact that Divisional Officers were asked to prepare working plans along with their other duties.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI: Have the Government any objection to depute a special officer to prepare these working plans, as was done in the past?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: I want notice.

Creeper Cutting and Fire Prevention in Reserved Forests.

179. MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state whether any and, if so, what arrangement is made for creeper cutting and fire prevention in the reserves and what sum is set apart for each item of work for 1098?

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[Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai.]

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: Creeper cutting is done in coupes taken up for exploitation, simultaneously with the marking of the trees to be felled. A sum of Rs. 1,000 has been provided for this purpose in the budget for 1098.

For fire protection, a sum of Rs. 7,100 has been allotted in the budget for 1098. This amount has been distributed among the Divisional Forest Officers for clearing fire-lines and protecting the reserves from fire.

Teak Plantations in the Southern Division.

180. MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) how many teak plantations there are in the Southern Division;

(*b*) who the Ranger in charge is;

(*c*) whether he had any practical experience of similar work in Travancore;

(*d*) how many times, and when last, the Conservator of Forests inspected them;

(*e*) whether the plantations are not a failure; and

(*f*) what the methods adopted in transplanting are?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: (*a*) One, *viz.*, that at Paraliar.

(*b*) Mr. T. D. Kuppuswami Aiyar.

(*c*) He has had training at Dehra Dhun and has acquired some experience of planting methods in Travancore.

(*d*) The Conservator of Forests inspected the plantation twice, the last inspection being in Tulam, 1098.

(*e*) The plantation is not a failure, although some plants withered for want of timely rains.

(*f*) Stump planting.

Economic Survey of Forests.

181. MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state why the Senior Deputy Conservator is not allowed to continue the work of the economic survey of the forests, which his predecessor, the present Conservator of Forests, had been doing?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: A senior officer will be set free when the Forest College closes early in 1099 and the question of deputing a suitable officer for the economic survey of forests will be then considered.

Roller purchased for the Forest Department.

182. MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state:

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